



# MESCALERO Apache TRIBE

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## Memorandum

**To: Mescalero Apache Tribal Members**

**From: Cultural Committee, Council as a Whole**

*J.D. Chairperson*

**Re: Annual Fourth of July Ceremonial and Rodeo Festivities**

**Date June 21, 2024**

First and foremost, we would like to express that our thoughts and prayers are with those affected by the South Fork and Salt Fires, especially our neighbors, the Village of Ruidoso, and the many residents who lost their homes and businesses. Many prayers and blessings are sent your way.

This memorandum is to notify you that the Cultural Committee decided to cancel all of the festivities planned in conjunction with this year's Fourth of July Coming of Age Ceremony. These festivities include the parade, rodeo, vendors, and entertainment.

However, we would like to make clear that the Coming of Age Ceremony itself will still take place. This Ceremony is an important milestone for the Apache maidens and families involved.

This decision was not taken lightly. The Cultural Committee feels it is only appropriate given the devastation and loss of life caused by the fires. In addition, the Tribe must focus on emergency response and recovery efforts. Instead of participating in the usual festivities, we hope that you will use this time for prayer, mindfulness, spiritual renewal, and community.

We hope everyone sincerely takes into consideration that the decision made, is truly in the best interests of everyone, including the Village of Ruidoso. We also would like to remind everyone to pray for one another, check on each other, respect one another, love one another and simply be there for one another.

Ix'xe'xe.